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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/823,709	04/14/2004	Hiroyoshi Tsuruta	ED-US020438	5227
22919	7590	07/07/2008	EXAMINER	
GLOBAL IP COUNSELORS, LLP 1233 20TH STREET, NW, SUITE 700 WASHINGTON, DC 20036-2680			JOHNSON, MATTHEW A	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER			
	3682			
MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE			
07/07/2008	PAPER			

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Interview Summary	Application No. 10/823,709	Applicant(s) TSURUTA ET AL.
	Examiner MATTHEW JOHNSON	Art Unit 3682

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) MATTHEW JOHNSON /M.J. (3) _____.

(2) Todd Guise. (4) _____.

Date of Interview: 24 June 2008.

Type: a) Telephonic b) Video Conference
c) Personal [copy given to: 1) applicant 2) applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) Yes e) No.
If Yes, brief description: _____.

Claim(s) discussed: 20 and 22.

Identification of prior art discussed: Jackel et al. (USP-6,213,270), Fukushima (4,842,116), Maucher et al. (USP-4,732,250).

Agreement with respect to the claims f) was reached. g) was not reached. h) N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: Discussed the definition of "annular protrusion" in relation to the prior art. Discussed the 103 rejection of claim 22. Applicant's arguments do not appear to overcome the prior art. Applicant is to respond.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

/M. J./
Examiner, Art Unit 3682

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.

Examiner's signature, if required